



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION BUREAU

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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Office of Hazardous Materials Operations

[49 CFR Part 178]

[Docket No. HM-156; Notice No. 78-2]

## SHIPPING CONTAINER SPECIFICATIONS

### Flattening Test Requirement for Seamless Cylinders

AGENCY: Materials Transportation Bureau (MTB), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: This proposed rule would amend the regulations in Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, pertaining to flattening tests by deleting the requirement that certain seamless cylinders be hydrostatically tested prior to the flattening test and by requiring that the longitudinal axis of the cylinder be perpendicular to the knife edges during flattening testing. This proposed amendment is needed to eliminate the necessity of performing the hydrostatic test before the flattening test, since data indicates the order in which the tests occur is not a significant safety consideration. Modification of the flattening tests is needed to clarify the procedure used in that test. This proposed amendment would allow flexibility as to when the sample may be selected, and would assure uniformity in the procedures used in flattening tests.

DATES: Comments by March 20, 1978.

ADDRESS COMMENTS TO: Dockets Section, Office of Hazardous Materials Operations, Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C. 20590. It is requested that five copies be submitted.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Alan I. Roberts, Director, Office of Hazardous Materials Operations, 2100 2nd Street SW., Washington, D.C. 20590, 202-426-0656.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This petition is based in part on a petition from the Pressed Steel Tank Co., Inc. (PST), requesting that the regulations be relaxed by allowing the performance of a flattening test at any

time after heat treatment for DOT 3A, 3AX, 3AA, 3AAX, and 3HT cylinders. The MTB believes the petition has merit based on the fact that the test data submitted by PST revealed no discernible difference in the results obtained from cylinders that had flattening tests performed before and after hydrostatic testing. This data indicates that hydrostatic testing produces no significant change on the useful material characteristics required for a completed DOT cylinder.

The proposal to align the longitudinal axis of the cylinder at approximately right angles to the knife edges is being proposed by the MTB to assure uniformity in the flattening test requirements for DOT specification seamless cylinders. This procedure is consistent with present industry practice.

Since the petition addressed only three specifications, only these specifications are being considered in this notice.

These proposals would not significantly affect the cost of regulatory enforcement, nor would additional costs be imposed on the private sector, consumers or Federal, State, or local governments. Primary drafters of this document are Jose Pena, Technical Services Branch, Office of Hazardous Materials Operations, and Douglas A. Crockett, Office of the Chief Counsel, Research and Special Projects Directorate.

In consideration of the foregoing, it is proposed to amend Part 178 of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

1. In § 178.36, § 178.36-15 would be revised to read as follows:

§ 178.36 Specification 3A; seamless steel cylinders or 3AX; seamless steel cylinders of capacity over 1,000 pounds water volume.

### § 178.36-15 Flattening test.

Between knife edges, wedge shaped, 60-degree angle, rounded to 1/2-inch radius; test 1 cylinder taken at random out of each lot of 200 or less cylinders. Axis of the cylinder must be at approximately a 90-degree angle to knife edges.

2. In § 178.37, § 178.37-15 would be revised to read as follows:

§ 178.37 Specification 3AA; seamless steel cylinders made of definitely prescribed steels or 3AAX; seamless steel cylinders made of definitely prescribed steels of capacity over 1,000 pounds water volume.

### § 178.37-15 Flattening test.

Between knife edges, wedge shaped, 60-degree angle, rounded to 1/2-inch radius; test 1 cylinder taken at random out of each lot of 200 or less cylinders. Axis of the cylinder must be at approximately a 90-degree angle to knife edges.

3. In § 178.44, § 178.44-17 would be revised to read as follows:

§ 178.44 Specification 3HT; inside containers, seamless steel cylinders for aircraft use made of definitely prescribed steel.

### § 178.44-17 Flattening test.

Between knife edges, wedge shaped, 60-degree angle, rounded to 1/2-inch radius; test 1 cylinder taken at random out of each lot of 200 or less cylinders. Axis of the cylinder must be at approximately a 90-degree angle to knife edges.

(49 U.S.C. 1803, 1804, 1808; 49 CFR 1.53(e) and paragraph (a)(4) of App. A to Part 102.)

Issued in Washington, D.C., on January 11, 1978.

ALAN I. ROBERTS,  
Director, Office of  
Hazardous Materials Operations.  
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